

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system by which a provider bank effectuates international banking transactions for a plurality of customers of a client bank, the system comprising:
 - a client bank environment subsystem established within the provider bank, the client bank environment subsystem comprising:
 - a plurality of customer accounts corresponding to the plurality of customers of the client bank, and
 - a client bank environment subsystem processor coupled to the plurality of customer accounts and coupled to the client bank, the client bank environment subsystem processor receiving a payment instruction from the client bank related to a low value payment in a particular country requested by a particular customer of the client bank, the client bank environment subsystem processor debiting the customer account of the particular customer and generating the low value payment in response to the payment instruction from the client bank; and
 - a provider bank environment subsystem established within the provider bank, the provider bank environment subsystem comprising:
 - a provider bank environment subsystem processor coupled to the client bank environment subsystem processor and coupled to a low value payment system in the particular country, the provider bank environment subsystem processor receiving the low value payment from the client bank environment subsystem processor and transmitting the low value payment to the low value

payment system in the particular country, whereby the particular customer of the client bank can make the low value payment even though the client bank does not have direct access to the low value payment system in the particular country.

2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the low value payment is for less than 50,000 United States dollars.

3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the low value payment system comprises a international Automated Clearing House (ACH) system.

4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the low value payment system comprises a GIRO system.

5. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a local branch of the provider bank in the particular country, wherein the provider bank ~~environment subsystem~~ processor is coupled to the low value payment system through the local branch.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the provider bank ~~environment subsystem~~ processor is coupled to the low value payment system through a correspondent bank in the particular country.

7. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a gateway processor coupled to the client bank and coupled to the client bank ~~environment subsystem~~ processor, wherein the client bank transmits a payment file to the gateway processor, the payment file containing a plurality of payment instructions, and wherein the gateway processor separates the plurality of payment instructions from the payment file and communicates the separated payment instructions to the client bank ~~environment subsystem~~ processor.

8. (Original) The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the plurality of payment instructions relate to more than one of the plurality of customers of the client bank.

9. (Original) The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the payment file is encrypted.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein there is a second client bank having a second plurality of customers, the system further comprising:
a second client bank environment subsystem established within the provider bank, the second client bank environment subsystem comprising:

a second plurality of customer accounts corresponding to the second plurality of customers of the second client bank, and a second client bank environment subsystem processor coupled to the second plurality of customer accounts, coupled to the second client bank and coupled to the provider bank environment subsystem processor, wherein the second client bank environment subsystem processor and the provider bank environment subsystem processor operate to effectuate low value payments in response to instructions from the second client bank.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the payment instruction from the client bank relates to a high value payment and wherein the provider bank environment subsystem processor is further coupled to a high value clearing system, the provider bank environment subsystem processor communicating the high value payment to the high value clearing system.

12. (Original) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the high value clearing system is selected from the group consisting of a Real-Time Gross Settlement system, a Multi-Lateral Net Settlement system, European Banking Association Euro clearing system, and the Trans-European Automated Real-time Gross settlement Express Transfer system.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the provider bank environment subsystem processor further performs a foreign exchange operation with respect to the high value payment prior to communicating the high value payment to the high value clearing system.

14. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the provider bank provides liquidity management services with respect to the plurality of customer accounts.

15. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the liquidity management services includes account balance sweeping.

16. (Original) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the account balance sweeping is zero balance sweeping.

17. (Original) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the account balance sweeping is target balance sweeping.

18. (Original) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the liquidity management services includes account pooling.

Claims 19-44 (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method by which a provider bank effectuates international banking transactions for a plurality of customers of a client bank, the method comprising:
establishing a client bank environment subsystem within the provider bank;
establishing a plurality of customer accounts within the client bank environment subsystem, the plurality of customer accounts corresponding to the plurality of customers of the client bank;

receiving a payment instruction from the client bank related to a low value payment in a particular country requested by a particular customer of the client bank;

debiting the customer account of the particular customer;

generating the low value payment in response to the payment instruction from the client bank

establishing a provider bank ~~environment~~ subsystem within the provider bank;

receiving the low value payment from the client bank ~~environment~~ subsystem;

transmitting the low value payment to the low value payment system in the particular country, whereby the particular customer of the client bank can make the low value payment even though the client bank does not have direct access to the low value payment system in the particular country.

46. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the low value payment is for less than 50,000 United States dollars.

47. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the low value payment system comprises a international Automated Clearing House (ACH) system.

48. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the low value payment system comprises a GIRO system.

49. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the low value payment to the low value payment system in the particular country further comprises transmitting the low value payment to a local branch of the provider bank in the particular country, wherein the local branch transmits the low value payment to the low value payment system.

50. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the step of transmitting the low value payment to the low value payment system in the particular country further comprises transmitting the low value payment to a correspondent bank in the particular country, wherein the local correspondent bank transmits the low value payment to the low value payment system.

51. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 45, further comprising:
transmitting a payment file from the client bank to a gateway processor, the payment file containing a plurality of payment instructions;
separating, in the gateway processor, the plurality of payment instructions from the payment file; and
communicating the separated payment instructions to the client bank ~~environment subsystem~~.

52. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein there is a second client bank having a second plurality of customers, the method further comprising:
establishing a second client bank ~~environment subsystem~~ within the provider bank; and
establishing a second plurality of customer accounts corresponding to the second plurality of customers of the second client bank;
wherein the second client bank ~~environment subsystem~~ and the provider bank ~~environment subsystem~~ operate to effectuate low value payments in response to instructions from the second client bank.

53. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the payment instruction from the client bank relates to a high value payment, the method further comprising communicating the high value payment to a high value clearing system.

54. (Original) The method as recited in claim 53, further comprising performing a foreign exchange operation with respect to the high value payment prior to communicating the high value payment to the high value clearing system.

55. (Original) The method as recited in claim 45, further comprising performing liquidity management services with respect to the plurality of customer accounts.

56. (Original) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the step of performing liquidity management services further comprises performing account balance sweeping.

57. (Original) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein step of account balance sweeping further comprises performing zero balance sweeping.

58. (Original) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the step of account balance sweeping further comprises performing target balance sweeping.

59. (Original) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the step of performing liquidity management services further comprises performing account pooling.

Claims 60-62 (Canceled).